

Russell Fire Management Unit

The Russell FMU is 85,354 acres. The majority of area within this FMU is private property outside the Klamath National Forest boundary. A total of 25,376 acres of National Forest System lands are within this FMU. The city of Fort Jones is located in this FMU. Calfire has primary protection responsibility in this FMU. Fort Jones Fire Department has protection responsibility within city limits. Klamath National Forest has protection responsibility begins along the northern boundary of this FMU in the vicinity of Baldy Gap.

Fire Protection Responsibility	Acres	Percent of FMU
SKU	83,565	98%
KNF	374	0%
Local	1,415	2%
Wildland Urban Interface	Acres	Percent of FMU
Community At Risk	876	1%
Defense Zone	10,899	13%
Threat Zone	42,216	49%

3.2.2 Guidance

Listed below is the LMP Management Area specific guidance for this FMU.

Management Area	Acres	Percent of FMU
LSR	1,733	2%
TES Species Habitat	163	<1%
Riparian Reserves	3,751	4%
Retention	216	0%
Partial Retention	4,334	5%
General Forest	7,409	9%
No Data	285	<1%
Private (may include BLM)	7,485	9%
Private outside FS boundary	59,978	70%

Management Area 5 - Special Habitat

The TES species habitat within this FMU includes a portion of the Collins Baldy LSR, two Northern Spotted Owl activity centers and a portion the calchortus habitat management area.

Description

This management area includes the following types of special habitat: Late-Successional Reserves, which are designed to provide for the viability needs of all late-successional species in an ecosystem approach; other lands are designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Forest as habitat

needed to support the recovery of Federally listed T&E wildlife populations and habitat for the Sensitive plant, *Calochortus persistens* (Siskiyou mariposa lily).

Each of the T&E species requires different habitat. When the habitat of these species overlap, the management priority shall be placed on the species with the most specialized habitat needs (that is, the rarest occurring habitat).

Management actions proposed for these areas will be consistent with the recommendations for habitat management provided in the USFWS Recovery Plans for these species and the Forest Service direction applicable to the recovery plan.

Management Goals

Provide habitat conditions and management activities that contribute to the recovery of Federally listed T&E species and to Sensitive species found on the Forest. Emphasize the recovery of each species, by managing for quality habitat, consistent with ecological processes.

Provide for more than the minimum number of bald eagle and peregrine falcon pairs established by the Recovery Plans and disaggregated to the Forest.

Meet the habitat requirements as outlined in the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* signed April 13, 1994 and the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* dated February 1994 (FSEIS).

Late Successional Reserves

The Collins Baldy LSR is not a contiguous LSR. Every other section is owned by private timber companies.

Description

LSRs have been designated based on 5 elements: (1) areas mapped as part of an interacting reserve system; (2) Late-successional/Old Growth 1 and 2 areas within Marbled Murrelet Zone 1 and certain owl additions, mapped by the Scientific Panel on Late-Successional Forest Ecosystems (1991); (3) sites occupied by marbled murrelets; (4) known owl activity centers; and (5) Protection Buffers for specific endemic species identified by the Scientific Analysis Team (1993). Additional areas may be included as species are identified as provided for in the survey and management standards and guidelines.

Management Goals

The objective of LSRs is to protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and "old growth" forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late-successional and "old growth"-related species including the northern spotted owl. These reserves are designed to maintain a functional, interacting, late-successional and "old growth" forest ecosystem.

Desired Future Condition

The characteristics of individual areas vary according to the dominant vegetative species, site class, topography and other site factors. Well-dispersed and continuous areas of multi-layered forests with high quality habitat characteristics and attributes are common: (1) under optimum conditions on north slopes, (2) at high elevations, and (3) in cool, moist areas. The overstory trees are large diameter, tall and have obvious signs of decadence. Some are broken-topped, have mistletoe, or have platforms of branches capable of holding organic materials that serve as a nest. Snags are common and fallen trees visible on the ground, providing for adequate prey populations. Within true fir habitats or where

hardwoods occur, mid-seral stage forested areas provide suitable habitat as well. Although overstory trees are smaller and stands are less dense, important structural elements, such as snags and nesting platforms, are present. South slopes and drier areas are more open due to frequent natural fires.

Exceptions

RNAs and activities required by recovery plans for listed T&E species take precedence over LSR standards and guidelines.

Management Assessment for Late-Successional Reserves

Management assessments have been completed for LSRs and 100-acre LSRs throughout the Forest. These LSR assessments include: (1) a history and inventory of overall vegetative conditions within the reserve, (2) a list of identified late-successional associated species known to exist within the LSR and information on their locations, (3) a history and description of current land uses within the reserve, (4) a fire management plan, (5) criteria for developing appropriate treatments, (6) identification of specific areas that could be treated under those criteria, (7) a proposed implementation schedule tiered to higher order (for example, larger scale) plans, and (8) proposed monitoring and evaluation components to help evaluate if future activities are carried out as intended and achieve desired results. The Regional Ecosystem Office (REO) has reviewed these LSR assessments. Activities that have been reviewed by the REO have been prioritized for each LSR. LSRs have also been prioritized by activity needs. Refer to the Forest-wide LSR assessment, Taylor, Dillon, Crapo/Little North Fork, and Goosenest LSR assessments. Also, refer to Appendix K, LSR Fire Management Plan, located at the end of this document.

Standards and Guidelines

- MA5-35 Each LSR will be included in fire management planning as part of watershed analysis. Fire suppression in LSRs will utilize minimum impact suppression methods in accordance with guidelines for reducing risks of large-scale disturbances. Plans for wildfire suppression will emphasize maintaining late-successional habitat. During actual fire suppression activities, fire managers will consult with resource specialists (for example, botanists, fisheries and wildlife biologists, hydrologists) familiar with the area, these standards and guidelines and their objectives, to assure that habitat damage is minimized. Until a fire management plan is completed for LSRs, suppress wildfire to avoid loss of habitat in order to maintain future management options.
- MA5-36 In LSRs, a specific fire management plan will be prepared prior to any habitat manipulation activities. This plan, prepared during watershed analysis or as an element of province-level planning or a LSR assessment, should specify how hazard reduction and other prescribed fire applications will meet the objectives of the LSR. Until the plan is approved, proposed activities will be subject to review by REO. REO may develop additional guidelines that would exempt some activities from review. In all LSRs, watershed analysis will provide information to determine the amount of CWD to be retained when applying prescribed fire.
- MA5-37 In LSRs, the goal of wildfire suppression is to limit the size of all fires. When watershed analysis, province-level planning, or a LSR assessment is completed, some natural fires may be allowed to burn under prescribed conditions. Rapidly extinguishing smoldering CWD and duff should be considered to preserve these ecosystem elements.
- MA5-38 Utilize an aggressive prescribed fire program to maintain long-term habitat quality and ecological processes within LSRs once LSR assessments and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) analysis are completed and site-specific decisions are made. Specific fire prescriptions shall be used until PNF can be effectively used. The use of PNF is outlined in the Wilderness Fire Management S&Gs. Those S&Gs also shall apply to LSRs.

- MA5-39 Report wildfires within activity centers to the appropriate District and/or Forest biologist. The biologist shall determine the need to contact the USFWS. Report fires that escape initial attack to the USFWS. Motorized and heavy equipment may be permitted by the Incident Commander to assure habitat protection.
- MA5-40 Wildfire prevention should be critical to habitat maintenance. During critical fire danger periods, increased prevention efforts should be undertaken, especially in high use recreation areas within LSRs and in areas adjacent to populated areas.

Calochortus persistens

Description

This 100-acre area consists of dry rocky outcroppings within the westside mixed conifer forest. The habitat for this State-listed Rare perennial species has been managed since 1982 under guidelines developed by the Forest in a species management guide. No other populations of this plant are known to exist on the Forest.

Management Goals

Maintain the currently known, and any newly discovered, *Calochortus* population's habitat in an undisturbed condition. Inventory similar habitats for potential population expansion opportunities.

Manage habitat to provide for a viable population of *Calochortus*. Manage the plant populations and species vigor in a way that would prevent the need to list this species as T&E.

Desired Future Condition

Habitat conditions for the *Calochortus persistens* consist primarily of undisturbed rocky outcroppings and openings. Conifers next to the primary habitat hold snow and moisture on the site. Habitat enhancement projects have removed the exotic, invasive weed species. Other management activities occurring within the area do not jeopardize the species or its habitat.

Standards and Guidelines

- MA5-77 Prohibit any ground disturbance that would adversely affect the known habitat (by introducing weedy species) or physically disturbing existing plants. Disturbed areas near this habitat should be managed to exclude non-native invasive plant species.
- MA5-78 Conduct programmed or permitted activities within the management area so as not to adversely affect the habitat values for the *Calochortus*.

Partial Retention Visual Quality Objective

Description

This prescription applies to those areas identified with a Partial Retention VQO. It encompasses 188,500 acres. These areas typically are either in the foreground of moderate visual sensitivity roads, trails, etc., or the middleground of high sensitivity roads.

Scattered throughout the Forest, these areas are primarily in the middle distances (1/2 to 3 miles) from selected roads and trails.

Management Goal

Provide an attractive, forested landscape where management activities remain visually subordinate to the character of the landscape. Manage human activities so they are subordinate to the character of the landscape.

Maintain stand health as well as resilience to wildland fire, insect, disease, and other damage.

Desired Future Condition

Areas managed to meet a Partial Retention VQO may show evidence of management activities but are visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape in form, line, color, or texture of landscape elements. Views from visually important roads and trails appear forested and provide a nearly natural looking landscape.

Lands capable of growing coniferous vegetation are forested.

Standards and Guidelines

- MA15-15 Use prescribed fire to reduce natural fuel buildups, to treat post harvest fuels and to influence vegetative development or composition when there is no market for the slash or down wood.
- MA15-16 Design fuelbreaks to mimic the natural characteristics of the area. On steep ground, design units that are operationally feasible and effective to treat fuels.

General Forest

Description

Scattered throughout the Forest, these areas make up about 11% (262,000 acres) of the Forest land base. They are lands that are capable, available, and suitable to be managed for a host of resource conditions, including structural component and commercial outputs. They currently support a variety of vegetation including shrubs, hardwood species, and various tree species in varying sizes and densities. They are areas where timber outputs, consistent with Forest-wide management goals, are of a high priority.

Management Goals

Provide a programmed, non-declining flow of timber products, sustainable through time. These levels may vary from year to year, based on ecological processes. Maintain conifer stocking levels and high growth rates commensurate with the capability of the site to produce wood fiber. Intensively manage young regenerated stands to maximize growth potential.

Maintain stand health, as well as resilience to wildland fire, insect, disease, and other damage. Emphasize salvage and restoration from catastrophic events. Reforest capable, but currently non-stocked, lands.

Emulate ecological processes and stand and landscape patterns where possible. Within harvest units, maintain appropriate structure, composition, and ecological functioning of the area.

Provide for snags and hardwood habitat to help maintain viable populations of wildlife species that require these structural components.

Meet the VQOs. Achieve less modified visual conditions when possible.

Develop a transportation system to transport Forest commodities efficiently to available markets.

Where possible, adjust planting levels to reduce pre-commercial thinning and fuel hazard costs in the future.

Desired Future Condition

The mosaic of healthy forest stands is comprised of a variety of vegetative species. The composition of individual stands varies considerably depending on forest type and seral stage development. Although openings with hardwoods, shrubs, grasses, and forbs are apparent, forest stands consist primarily of conifers. In some areas, the conifer component of the vegetation is sparse (due to vegetative manipulations or natural conditions). All areas maintain some structural components of older stands. Some areas support mature forest stands. The oldest stands are between 80 and 120 years old. Generally, this portion of the forest has younger trees than the surrounding areas. Stand sizes vary with topography and the landscape pattern of surrounding areas.

Regeneration openings have clumps of green trees on at least 15% of the area. Existing seed tree and shelterwood stands retain their residual trees (3 to 12 trees/acre) for structural diversity.

Stocking control maintains healthy, vigorously growing stands.

Reforestation, timber harvesting, and stand tending activities are commonplace. A network of roads provides access throughout these areas.

Habitat for species, which use early and mid-seral stages, is abundant.

Standards and Guidelines

MA17-15 Use prescribed fire to reduce natural fuel buildups, to treat post harvest fuels and to influence vegetative development or composition when there is no market for the slash or down wood.

MA17-16 Design fuelbreaks to mimic the natural characteristics of the area. On steep ground, design units that are operationally feasible and effective to treat fuels.

3.2.3 FMU Characteristics

Completion of this section is ongoing

3.2.3.1 Safety

3.2.3.2 Physical

3.2.3.3 Biological

3.2.3.4 Resources

Deadwood Genetic seed orchard is located in this FMU (41 44.5 x -122 47.5)

Coats genetic seed orchard (41 44.5833 x -122 55.5333)

This FMU includes industrial timber lands. It is primarily a “checkerboard ownership” within the forest boundary, with every other section owned by private timber companies.

3.2.4 FMU Fire Environment

Completion of this section is ongoing

3.2.4.1 Fire Behavior

3.2.3.2 Weather